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MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1955

L. Spencer Stephens,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary
Officer.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955

Chairman of the Council Mr. F. B. Jacomb, J.P.
Vice-Chairman of the Council Mr. H. Ballard.

Members of the Public Health Committee

Dr. B. G. Goodwin, J.P. Chairman

Mr. E. M. Badger	Mrs. P. M. Gibbons
Mr. R. Colwill	Dr. T. L. Hardy
Mr. D. N. Costello	Mr. F. Horton
Mr. E. N. G. Crane	Mr. A. C. Ralph
Mr. A. D. Cullen	Mr. C. C. Townsend
Mr. A. N. Cutler	Mr. R. B. Ward
Mr. O. G. Davis	Sir F. S. Winnington,
Miss A. M. Enderby	Bart.

Public Health Staff of the Authority

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer.

J. D. Blakeway, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Officer and Assistant Engineer and
Surveyor.

K. J. Cottrell
Clerical Assistant.

Miss S. M. Hall,
Shorthand Typist and Clerk.

H. Dew,
Assistant Rodent Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

Public Health Department,
1, The Tything,
Worcester.

July, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1955. The report is divided into the usual sections and comments have been included on points of interest under each heading.

The General health of the population remained good during the year and there were no startling outbreaks of infectious disease or radical changes in the birth or death rates. The only interesting statistic is the increase in the number of illegitimate births to twelve. There is no doubt that there has been a steady decline in morals throughout the country during recent years. This decline has also been associated with a definite increase in psychological disturbances leading to mental illnesses which appear to be due to difficulties arising both before and after marriage. There seems to be little opportunity for the Medical Profession to give young people advice before marriage unless they ask for it and the problem would seem to be one which has to be tackled by certain voluntary organisations. Responsible members of the community can, however, do a great deal by setting a high standard of christian ethics and showing how they themselves face the problems of married life. Broken marriages are far too common and so frequently responsible for a great deal of unhappiness in the unfortunate offspring. Determined efforts must be made to prevent such catastrophies. The County Medical Officer of Health has for sometime been concerned with this problem and facilities do exist for dealing with it. The Worcester Marriage Guidance Council is doing good work and their counsellors are always ready to give help. The Diocesan Moral Welfare Association also has branches in various parts of the County and acts as a registered adoption society. Both organisations are only too pleased to tackle any new problems which are brought to their notice.

Excellent progress was made with the first part of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme during the latter half of the year. There is no doubt that this scheme will provide considerable benefit to the community when completed. Many areas are short of water and quite unable to obtain satisfactory supplies from existing sources. The needs of agriculture are great and an efficient housing programme cannot be arranged unless wholesome water is available in the right places. Drainage problems are bound to follow the introduction of the scheme, but a solution to them will, I hope, considerably improve the sanitary conditions of the District. The provision of a piped water supply inside the houses will also raise the standard of personal hygiene and it is hoped that many owners will, in addition to taking piped water, provide internal sanitation. The village schools are urgently in need of pure drinking water and the Local Education Authority is most anxious to obtain supplies as soon as possible.

A problem which I feel has been given insufficient attention is the danger of fire in hop-picking barracks. The use of open-coke braziers in close proximity to straw bedding inside a hut may easily result in the occupants being burnt alive. The farmers responsible for such accommodation should see that the Fire Regulations are strictly complied with for the individuals themselves seldom seem to appreciate the grave risk they run.

Proposals for the demolition of some 220 unfit properties were submitted to the Minister in August 1955, under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The provision of new dwellings in order to keep up to schedule with these proposals will be a difficult task. The time is now opportune for the preparation of a five year building programme which should be closely related to the detailed proposals for slum clearance. There seems to be anxiety that such a programme would result in an increase in the General Rate but the Ministry have already intimated that the Housing Revenue Account should be self-supporting. The Housing Subsidies Act 1956 gives considerable encouragement to Local Authorities building houses for slum clearance purposes and the introduction of a differential rents scheme seems to be the logical solution for providing for the people with inadequate means. I feel certain that there are a considerable number of people on the Council's waiting list who can pay a full economic rent and would prefer to do so than go on living in overcrowded and unsatisfactory dwellings. Country property is deteriorating steadily and private owners do not seem to have the capital to keep it up to standard. The Local Authority must accept their responsibilities for rehousing and should, to my mind, continue building at the same rate as in the post-war years.

My thanks are due to Mr. Pratt and the members of his Department for their invaluable assistance during the year, and to you, Mr. Chairman and all members of the Council for the kind consideration shown to me.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. Spencer Stephens.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Rural District of Martley, comprising 52,823 acres is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the City of Worcester. The River Teme runs through the district dividing it into two parts. The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hopgrowing areas in the country. Each year the hop picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district. These come mainly from the Black Country.

Vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables:-

Area in Acres...	52,823
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1955) according to Rate Books ...	3,669
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)...	£44,002
Sum represented by one penny rate ...	£184/12
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1955)	11,540

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate...	79	77	156
Illegitimate ...	7	5	12
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population...	...	..	14.57
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	.	15.15
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	.	15.0
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate...	1	2	3
Illegitimate. ...	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ...	...	...	17.8
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales total live and still births	.	.	23.1
<u>Deaths</u>			
From all causes ..	66	67	133
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	...	...	11.52
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	10.25
Rate for England and Wales ...	...	...	11.7
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>			
Legitimate...	2	2	4
Illegitimate. ...	-	-	-
		Total	4
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births	...	...	23.8
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales ..	...	...	24.9
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>			
Legitimate...	2	2	4
Illegitimate. ...	-	-	-
		Total	4
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births	...	...	23.8
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...	..	...	17.3

Causes of Death as Classified by the Registrar General

								Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Meningococcal Infections. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Cancer of Stomach . ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Cancer of Lung ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Cancer of Breast...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Cancer of Uterus...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
Coronary disease, angina. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	11
Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Bronchitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	-
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Homicide and operations of war. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Services

Laboratory services are provided at laboratories situated at the County Buildings and the Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

(b) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. The ambulance station which serves the district is situated in Worcester. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the ambulance service.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

This service is provided by the County Council. In most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse/Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. Nine district Nurse/Midwives are working in the District.

(d) Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to hospitals at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated in Worcester, Malvern and Knightwick.

(e) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The district is served by the following clinics:-

Ante-Natal Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport

Open every Tuesday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster

Open every Monday in the month at 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Parish Hall, Hallow

Open on the second and fourth Thursday in the month at 2 p.m.

Club Room, Bell Inn, Broadheath

Open on first and third Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Section B - (Contd.)

Infant Welfare Clinics

Chantry School, Martley

Open on second Wednesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Village Hall, Alfrick

Open on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Clifton-on-Teme

Open on the last Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Leigh

Open on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Great Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Little Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Shrawley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2. p.m.

Parish Room, Holt

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 3 p.m.

(f) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria can be carried out, free of charge, by the patients own doctor or at the County Council's clinics.

The following inoculations were done during the year:-

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year - 137.

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year - 95.

Vaccination

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year - 113.

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year - 14.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT 1951

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of persons who are in need of care and attention.

Two old people were admitted voluntarily to Welfare Accommodation during the year. Another old lady was found to be living alone in insanitary conditions but would not go into hospital. As it was felt that she could make an effort to live satisfactorily a notice was served on her under Section 83 of the Public Health Act and a considerable amount of rubbish removed. When last visited the house was very clean and tidy

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

A special meeting of the Council was arranged on 20th May 1955 to consider the tenders submitted for Part One of the Comprehensive Water Scheme and it was decided to offer the Contract to Messrs. T. Vale & Sons for the sum of £198,750.

Work was started on the Scheme in June and during the latter half of the year some six miles of main were laid by the Contractors. A start has been made on the laying of:-

- (1) A 10" pumping main from the Astley Boreholes, via Shrawley and Little Witley, to the proposed reservoir on Ockeridge Waste.
- (2) An 8" main from Stallards Turning to Wichenford village.
- (3) A 6" main from Ridleys Cross to Astley Mill.
- (4) A 4" main from Astley Cross to Dunley with various 3" branch mains in that area.
- (5) 8" extensions were also laid from the existing mains in Hallow to Mosceley in order to connect up with the Ockeridge supply at Monkwood Green and a 4" branch to Sinton Green was laid.
- (6) Bulk excavation and the laying of a concrete mat foundation for the reservoir at Ockeridge was begun.
- (7) Preliminary excavation of the reservoir site at Collins Green was carried out.

An order was placed with Messrs. Sulzer Bros. for the supply of two borehole and two booster pumps at a cost of approximately £9,000. Negotiations were entered into with Worcester Corporation for the purchase of the existing water mains at Hallow and a continued supply to that area for a temporary period.

As many enquiries had been made with regard to the cost of connections and the supply of water in bulk the following rates and charges were fixed provisionally:-

- (1) A flat rate of £6 for tapping the main and laying a service pipe to the curtilage of the property subject to a maximum distance of 45ft.
- (2) 2/6d. in the £ on rateable value for private premises.
Minimum charge £2. 10. 0. per annum.
- (3) Supplies by meter from 1st October, 1956.

First 25,000 gallons in any half year	3/6d. per 1,000 gallons.
Next 25,000 " " " " "	3/-d. " " "
Over 50,000 " " " " "	All at 2/-d. " " "
Minimum charge £1. 5. 0. per half year.	

A satisfactory supply of water to the village of Clifton-on-Teme was maintained during the year. Samples taken showed the water at all times to be suitable for drinking purposes.

A total of 79 bacteriological samples were taken during the year out of which 63 (80%) were contaminated to such an extent as to render the water unfit for drinking purposes. Chemical analysis of many of the same samples gave confirmation evidence of pollution and also showed a considerable degree of hardness. Many shallow wells in the District show a total hardness of over 400 parts per million which makes the water quite unsuitable for domestic use.

Section C - (Contd.)

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes

Tenders were accepted for the construction of a Sewage Disposal Works at Great Witley in January, 1955 and the work was completed in six months. This plant which was installed by Droitwich Construction Company was urgently needed, as for several months an increasing amount of sewage had been flowing into the newly constructed sewers in the village. The scheme which was only a small one consisted of the provision of a 3,000 gallon sedimentation tank, one percolating filter bed, a humus tank, and four sludge beds; the sludge being delivered to the beds by gravity and the liquor pumped back with a mobile pump. A small automatic pumping station had to be constructed some 200 yards distant to serve the Council houses and Worcester Road area which were at a lower level than other properties connected to the sewers. The village school is constructing new sanitary accommodation with drainage to this pumping station also.

At Hallow an extension to the sewers consisting of some 500 yards of main in the direction of the Sewage Disposal Works was laid to provide for the houses in Parkfield Lane. Work on the new sludge beds considered to be necessary at the Works was delayed due to a difference of opinion with the County Council. The County Sanitary Inspector was of the opinion that it would be more economical to pump all the sewage from the village to the new works at Broadheath. The distance was considered to be too great however and even then the plans made for these works would have to be modified. Eventually it was agreed that new sludge beds should be provided, but only as the first stage in the modernisation of the existing works. Some difficulties are still encountered with screening and the cleaning of the sedimentation tanks and it is hoped that further consideration will be given to this work as soon as possible.

The construction of a new Sewage Disposal Works in place of the existing land irrigation scheme at Clifton-on-Teme had been awaiting approval for some years. Ministry sanction was given in July, 1955 but initially not a great deal of progress was made. Levels had been taken and the main excavations completed by the end of the year however.

At Broadheath negotiations for the purchase of the site for the new Sewage Disposal Works were completed and the general layout of the scheme approved. The contract was offered and accepted by Messrs. T. Morris of Gloucester but no work was done during 1955.

Some difficulties were experienced in the successful operation and cleansing of the numerous small Council house sewage plants scattered about the Rural District. This was mainly due to the lack of full-time staff for the work. It was decided that a maintenance gang should be set up and come under the direct control of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. This was a very wise step as proper maintenance is most essential for the effective working of these small installations and also prevents offensive smells. Such difficulties do arise in the warm weather due to the proximity of the works to private properties in the villages concerned.

The following table gives particulars of the water supply and methods of sewage disposal in the district:-

PARISH	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g. wells, springs.	Sewerage and Sewage Disposal					
	Direct to Houses		By means of stand-pipe			No. of Dwellings connected to public sewer	Population served	No. of Houses with			
	No. of Dwelling houses	Population	No. of Dwelling houses	Population				Pails	Cesspits etc.	Private installations.	
Abberley	-	-	-	-	150	481	11	35	74	49	16
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	125	401	-	-	60	45	20
Astley	-	-	-	-	357	1,041	-	-	273	68	16
Brensford	3	10	-	-	82	264	-	-	58	27	-
Broadheath	-	-	-	-	263	855	64	220	132	59	8
Broadwas	-	-	-	-	83	270	-	-	43	35	5
Clifton-on-Teme	83	267	13	42	35	112	74	238	47	9	1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	-	51	164	-	-	11	21	19
Doldenham	-	-	-	-	72	232	-	-	49	21	2
Grinley	-	-	-	-	195	625	-	-	137	57	1
Hallow	183	588	-	-	152	488	230	731	77	19	2
Hillhampton	-	-	-	-	33	106	-	-	19	8	2
Folt	-	-	-	-	105	337	-	-	59	23	23
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	9	29	-	-	1	8	-
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	38	121	-	-	33	5	-
Leigh	4	13	-	-	288	915	29	93	209	50	4
Lulsley	-	-	-	-	41	132	-	-	33	8	-
Martley	-	-	-	-	277	883	56	170	165	51	5
St. John County	47	153	-	-	174	557	129	402	67	24	2
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	-	48	154	-	-	30	9	9
Shelsley Beauchamp	-	-	-	-	58	186	-	-	46	13	-
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	-	74	238	-	-	66	7	1
Shelsley Walsh	-	-	-	-	13	42	-	-	11	2	-
Shrawley	-	-	-	-	138	443	-	-	111	26	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	158	506	-	-	119	20	20
Wicherford	-	-	-	-	124	394	-	-	85	16	23
Witley, Great	-	-	-	-	116	372	34	106	49	31	2
Witley, Little	-	-	-	-	58	184	-	-	31	11	16

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year:-

Number of new houses erected during the year

(1)	by the local authority...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
(2)	by other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	49

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under One above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	9
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3. Action under Statutory Powers

A	<u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	by owners	...
	by local authority in default of owners	...
B	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	by owners	...
	by local authority in default of owners	...

Section D - (Contd.)

C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...	8
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings accepted	4

D Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
	Closing Orders under L.G.(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953	2
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) - Overcrowding

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year	Not
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	Known
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	Nil
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	43
	(iii) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. Routine Inspections were made of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold. Routine meat inspection was carried out systematically at the two slaughter houses in the District.

The following table shows the amount of meat inspected. Very little disease was found.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	93	3	2	212	115	-
Number inspected	93	3	2	212	115	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	2	-	1	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.67	66.66	50	.47	.86	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.22	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease which occurred in the district during the year:-

	Under 1	1 -	3 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 -	65 -	Total cases Notified
1. Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	8	1	-	-	-	10
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid.B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Interperal Typhexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	2	-	1	1	3	6	14
7. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Encephillitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles (ex. Rubella)	-	28	30	77	15	-	3	-	153
10. Whooping Cough	-	5	4	14	-	-	-	-	23
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
12. Dysentry	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	4
13. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
14. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality durin 1955

Age Period	New cases				Deaths +			
	Fulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Fulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
45	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	1	1	-	2	1	-

+ Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register and Local Registrar's Death Returns

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the end of the Year

Year	Fulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1950	33	27	15	18	93
1951	34	28	16	18	96
1952	37	33	13	15	98
1953	34	36	12	13	95
1954	27	41	11	11	90
1955	31	42	9	11	93

B.C.G. Vaccination

Worcestershire County Council started a scheme for the preventive innoculation of all children leaving school. Eighty three per cent of parents agreed to have their children done, so it may be said that the scheme has met with considerable success. This is a valuable protective measure against tuberculosis.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER

Public Health Department,
1, The Tything,
Worcester.

July, 1956.

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the ninth Annual Report on the work of my Department in relation to the administration of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The outstanding event of the year under review was undoubtedly the start of Part One of the comprehensive scheme of water supply, and the provision of this service may eventually prove to be the most important step in the history of the Council. It must be borne in mind that, once a mains water supply has been provided and put into operation, the Council, as the statutory water undertaking, have the responsibility of maintaining a constant supply at all times. For this purpose a suitable organisation must be determined during the coming year and the Council must be prepared to meet the cost of providing adequate staff and equipment.

With the advent of piped water, drainage disposal problems are bound to occur. During the past year the Council's attention was drawn to inadequate sewerage facilities by Parish Councils and individual rate payers on several occasions and these complaints are likely to increase during the next year or so. It is of little use to improve public health by providing wholesome water, if, by its disposal, new dangers arise. In many cases the provision of village sewerage schemes will not prove difficult but adequate financial assistance from the Central Government and the County Council will be required before such schemes can be installed.

I am pleased to report an increase in the provision of new housing accommodation during the year. More private development would have taken place but for the difficulty in acquiring sites. The Planning Committee are having to restrict development, especially in the villages adjoining the City of Worcester, owing to the demands of agriculture and the policies of the County Planning Committee and some disagreement with the latter body has arisen on this matter. It would appear that many town dwellers now wish to live in the country, or are being forced there by lack of sites in the towns, and I think it can be said that the number of private houses erected during the year would have been doubled if planning permission could have been granted.

The increase in the number of improvement grants is one of the few signs of any raising of the general standard of housing accommodation but even so the number of dwellings brought up to the required standard is small in relation to the total number of houses in the district. Difficulty has been experienced by applicants for such grants in finding contractors willing to carry out this type of work and this has been reflected in the estimates submitted. In some cases these estimates have been out of all proportion to the work to be carried out and have resulted in the application being withdrawn.

I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Council and especially to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their assistance and consideration, and to the staff of my Department for their willing co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. L. PRATT,

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer.

1. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS

The duties delegated to the Council by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act were carried out during the year with only one "difference of opinion" which was resolved by the County Planning Committee in favour of the County Planning Officer. The Council's Planning Committee are finding increased difficulty in giving decisions on the use of land for housing development owing to the "green-belt" provisions and agricultural needs on the one hand and the necessity for finding sites for persons in urgent need on the other. Many such applications have had to be deferred for upwards of two months pending the receipt of reports from other authorities and an appreciable increase in the number of visits to sites by Sub-Committees has resulted; these visits are thought to be essential in "green-belt" applications in order to give full consideration to "border-line" applications.

The following appeals against decisions of the Council were made during the year:-

- (a) Refusal to permit a stock-car racing track to be constructed at Witley Court. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (b) Refusal to permit the erection of a builders workshop at Astley. The appeal was allowed by the Minister.
- (c) Refusal to erect a Georgian-style house constructed of precast concrete blocks in a residential area at Rushwick. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (d) Refusal to extend a private housing estate of 146 houses by a further 40 houses at Rushwick. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (e) Refusal to permit a holiday caravan site for 60 caravans at Great Witley. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (f) Refusal to permit the erection of a dwelling on an exposed site at Astley. The appeal was allowed by the Minister.

Few cases of unauthorised development were reported and, except for two cases where enforcement notices were issued and complied with, all were dealt with successfully by informal action.

The County Council made one Tree Preservation order relating to Monk Wood in the parish of Grimley.

Details of applications to develop, etc., are given in tabular form below:-

	Plans for new con- struction	Outline appli- cations	Change of use of land and buildings	Total
Brought forward from 1954	5	10	-	15
Received during 1955	104	44	35	183
Total applications	109	54	35	198
Applications approved	99	27	27	153
Applications refused	4	16	5	25
Applications withdrawn	4	5	1	10
Applications outstanding	2	6	2	10
Total	109	54	35	198

Applications under Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1954	-	4	
Received during 1955	-	120	
			124
Applications approved	-	118	
Applications refused	-	1	
Applications withdrawn	-	4	
Applications outstanding	-	1	
			<u>124</u>

2. HOUSING

Provision of Housing Accommodation.

	Council Houses	Private Houses			Total
		Min. of Wks. licence	Subsidy	Others	
No. of houses under construction 1.1.55.	36	32	1	5	74
No. of houses completed & occupied during 1955.	36	39	1	6	82
No. of houses under construction 31.12.55.	14	1	-	29	44

The table below shows the units of accommodation provided during the past eight years:-

Year	Council Houses	Private Houses				Total
		Min. of Works Licence	Subsidy	Private Licence & others	Conversions	
1948	51	-	-	25	8	84
1949	21	-	-	11	-	32
1950	34	1	4	12	2	53
1951	35	2	3	3	4	47
1952	6	2	9	7	8	32
1953	36	4	2	21	-	63
1954	34	1	1	32	1	69
1955	36	39	1	6	3	85
Total	253	49	20	117	26	465

Little change can be reported in the general standard of housing accommodation in small dwellings as the restricting factors of controlled rents and the high cost of repairs still obtain.

The provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 have produced no applications either from landlords or tenants regarding increases of rent.

During the year the Council considered their proposals for slum clearance as required by Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. Based on the original housing survey completed in 1947, as brought up-to-date, and on the standard of fitness then operating, it was considered that some 220 houses should be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 at the rate of 22 houses per annum. These proposals were approved by the Minister without modification. Since the above proposals were submitted certain factors have arisen which will seriously affect the provision of accommodation by the Council to rehouse the tenants of property to be demolished; the raising of loan charges, the withdrawal of the rate fund contribution and the increased cost of building will tend to inflate the rents of new houses beyond the means of the type of person requiring rehousing, even allowing for the maximum government subsidy. At the present time the policy of the Council is to charge an economic rent for all new houses.

A partial solution to this problem could be found in building small bungalows to house old people now under-occupying existing Council houses, and utilising the latter to re-house tenants from demolished property. In this way the cost of the housing programme could be reduced and existing Council houses fully utilised but, to keep the rents of the bungalows at a level suitable for old age pensioners, some alteration in the rent policy generally will have to be made. It is difficult to equate the policy of the Government in restricting capital expenditure and raising loan charges with the policy of an "all-out" drive against substandard dwellings, especially in rural areas where wages generally are below the average and building costs on small sites must necessarily be high.

Improvement Grants.

As will be seen from the table below, the number of applications for improvement grants doubled during the year. The time taken up in this Department on this work is considerable and is really out of proportion to the number of dwellings improved but, having regard to the unsatisfactory position in the provision of new housing accommodation, it is thought to be worth-while. Since Local Authorities were allowed to administer this work entirely the time taken to approve applications has been reduced considerably and decisions on individual applications are usually given within one month of their receipt.

The number of individual dwellings forming the subject of formal applications since 1950 is as follows:-

Year	Rec'd	Withdrawn	Refused	Approved	Out-stand- ing.	Completed	Amount of Grant £
1950	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1951	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
1952	1	-	1	-	-	1	299
1953	10	4	1	5	-	-	-
1954	21	-	1	17	-	11	2,920
1955	41	5	3	36	-	28	7,372
Total	75	9	7	59	-	40	10,591

Average grant per house - £235.

The total cost to the Council of completed improvements to 40 houses, based on 25% of the grants given, is £2,499 or £66 per house.

Re-Housing.

During the year 51 lettings were made by the Housing Committee as against 72 in 1954. Of the year's lettings 25, or 50%, were given to families recommended on public health grounds for the following reasons:-

<u>Medical</u>	<u>Overcrowding</u>	<u>Structurally Defective Houses.</u>	<u>Shacks or Caravans</u>
3	10	10	2

Two houses were allocated specifically to tuberculosis patients.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) House Drainage

The following new drainage installations were approved and installed during the year:-

	<u>New Houses</u>	<u>Existing Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Septic Tanks	19	33	52
Connections to public sewer	59	20	79
Connections to private treatment plants	7	-	7
Total	85	53	138

Defective drainage to 11 premises was remedied and three sewer blockages removed. One of these blockages was caused by roots entering a cracked pipe; on examination several pipes were found to be cracked and, in all, some 30 yards of 9" sewer had to be replaced. The length of sewer involved was constructed at Hallow in 1915 and was laid in marl in open country on steeply sloping ground.

The mechanical cesspool emptier owned by Droitwich R.D.C. was hired frequently during the year for the desludging of settlement tanks to Council House sewage treatment plants and to empty privately owned septic tanks. In the latter case the hiring cost was re-charged to the owners or occupiers of the private houses.

Septic tanks to 39 private houses and settlement tanks to 9 Council treatment plants were emptied during the year.

A table showing the number of houses connected to public sewers, etc., in each Parish is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Sewerage Schemes

Rushwick

129 houses are now connected to the public sewer in this district of St. John County. This includes 97% of the existing houses on the line of the sewer and 36 new houses on a private housing estate.

A short length of sewer to serve four private houses was constructed during the year and the Council agreed to adopt the sewer on completion.

Hallow Sewage Disposal Works

The scheme for providing additional sludge drying beds to the disposal works was completed and forwarded to the Ministry and the County Council in April of this year. Approval in principle was received from the Minister but the County Medical Officer reported to the County Council that he thought the existing works should be abandoned and the sewage pumped to the proposed new works at Broadheath. The Council considered that it would be too costly to abandon the existing works and that the site at Broadheath was unsuitable for dealing with the sewage from Hallow. The County Council eventually agreed to the provision of the new sludge beds on being assured that this was the first stage in modernising the existing works. Approval to the tender for this work was received from the Minister in October and work was scheduled to commence in January, 1956.

Hallow - Parkfield Lane Sewer Extension

The scheme for sewerage this area was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the County Council in June and all approvals were obtained by October. Work commenced towards the end of that month and was completed in December. Some 560 yards of 6" diameter stoneware sewers and ten manholes were constructed and this sewer will serve 16 houses.

Broadheath

The scheme for installing the main outfall sewer and part of the treatment works contained in the proposed village sewerage scheme was investigated by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in May and approved in principle in June. Tenders were invited and submitted to the Minister in December.

Great Witley

Work on the provision of Part 1 of the sewage treatment plant was commenced in March and completed in August. Difficult ground conditions were experienced which slowed up construction.

The works treat the sewage received from the Worcester Road area, the School and two Council Housing Estates.

Clifton-on-Teme

The construction of the treatment works approved but not authorised by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1950 was eventually authorised in February. Approval to the tender was given by the Minister in July and work commenced in August.

Owing to difficulties in obtaining engineering bricks and machinery the works are not yet completed but it is anticipated that they will be in operation early in 1956.

Astley

Details of the sewerage scheme for the area surrounding the source of the Council's main water supply at Ridleys Cross were not completed by the Consulting Engineer before the end of the year.

Priority of Schemes

The priority of schemes to be designed and installed by my Department, together with the present position, is as follows:-

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Great Witley | - new sewage treatment plant | - Completed. |
| 2. Clifton-on-Teme | - new sewage treatment plant | - Under construction. |
| 3. Hallow | - Parkfield Lane Sewer Extension | - Completed. |
| 4. Grimley | - Sewerage scheme for Sinton Green, etc. | - Preliminary survey made. |

The under-mentioned areas will require sewerage in the near future and the order of priority will depend to a large extent on the provision of piped water. In all cases, however, existing conditions are such that sewerage facilities are required urgently.

Astley	-	Dunley area
Bransford	-	Suckley Road area
Great Witley	-	Abberley Hill area
Leigh	-	Leigh Sinton area
Shrawley	-	Jentre of the village

4. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Private Supplies

No acute shortage of water from these supplies occurred during the year and no water had to be carted during this period.

126 samples from wells and springs were submitted for examination of which 63 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically and 23 were unsatisfactory chemically. 10 wells were repaired and cleansed.

A licence was issued by the Minister for the sinking of a private borehole at Witley Court with a restriction on extraction at the rate of 3000 gallons per day.

(b) Council House Supplies

No shortage of water was experienced during the year from any of the small diameter boreholes supplying groups of Council Houses although several proved only just adequate for their purpose. Difficulties are still being experienced from the extreme hardness of water extracted from boreholes sunk in the marl.

(c) Public Supplies

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. No major extensions or alterations to the supplies were made during the year.

Clifton-on-Teme

The quantity of water pumped during the year for houses in this Parish was 2,902,000 gallons as compared with 2,675,950 gallons in 1954.

The source of this supply, a spring, proved adequate throughout the year. A sample of water taken for examination proved to be suitable for drinking purposes.

Hallow

During the year the agreement entered into with the City of Worcester regarding the supply of mains water to this Parish was terminated. Negotiations were started on a new agreement regarding a bulk supply and the purchase of the mains by this Council but no agreement had been reached by the end of the year. It is proposed to connect the existing mains to the Council's own supply when this becomes available.

Rushwick

The second extension of the mains supply to the new private housing estate was commenced towards the end of the year and this will consist of approximately 300 yards of 3" diameter spun iron pipes. Water to this area will be purchased in bulk from the City of Worcester until the Council's own supply becomes available.

Comprehensive Water Scheme.

The actual work of construction on Part 1 of this major scheme commenced in June of this year and good progress was made by the Contractor. Approximately 6 miles of spun iron mains of various sizes were laid and work commenced on the two reservoirs at Ockeridge and Collins Green. In the earlier months some difficulty was experienced in obtaining labour but the position improved considerably towards the end of the year. The Central Government made a provisional grant allocation of £5,000 towards the cost of the scheme.

Later in the year the Council accepted tenders for the pumping machinery and recording apparatus.

The Council agreed to a supply of water being provided to the Parish of Holt in Part 1 of the scheme instead of Part 2 as originally planned and application is to be made to the Minister for approval.

Byelaws for preventing waste, misuse or contamination of water were adopted by the Council during the year and confirmed by the Minister.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection

No change in the scheme of refuse collection was made during the year and the following collections are made:-

<u>Fortnightly collection of</u>		<u>Two-monthly collection of</u>	
<u>all house refuse.</u>		<u>incombustible refuse</u>	
Parishes of:-	Broadheath Hallow Clifton-on-Teme Bransford St. John County Grimley Holt	Parishes of:-	Abberley Astley Broadwas Cotheridge Doddenham Hillhampton Kenswick Knightwick Lulsley
Parts of Parishes of:-	Alfrick Suckley Martley Leigh		Sapey Pitchard Shelsley Beauchamp Shelsley Kings Shelsley Walsh Shrawley Wichenford Great Witley Little Witley
		Parts of Parishes of:-	Alfrick Martley Leigh Suckley

This scheme of collection is maintained with a labour force of five men and transport consisting of one 10 cu.yd. and one 7 cu.yd. vehicle. The 7 cu.yd. vehicle is to be replaced by one of 10 cu.yd. capacity next year and it may be possible after that time to make some small increase in the fortnightly collection area. Numbers of complaints have been received regarding the infrequent collections in those area not on a fortnightly collection but the Council are not willing at the present time to incur additional expenditure in extending a satisfactory service to all parishes in the district.

(b) Refuse Storage

The Council continued to encourage the use of suitable dustbins by selling to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge. 63 bins were sold during the year but there are still too many premises where refuse is stored in unsuitable containers which are un-hygienic and make emptying difficult.

(c) Refuse Disposal

It has not been possible to find suitable sites for controlled tipping in the northern parishes and the Leigh and Bransford areas and this has increased the collection costs through excessive transport charges.

One tip at Little Witley has been filled and will be covered with soil during the coming year.

A new tip has been started at Clifton-on-Teme and this should last for about five years.

6. SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice-cream

Number of premises registered for manufacture and sale	1
Number of premises registered for sale only	47
Number of samples taken for examination... ..	2
Number of samples certified as satisfactory	2
Number of samples certified as unsatisfactory... ..	-

The plant and methods at the manufacturing premises are satisfactory and the ice-cream produced is of a high standard being heat treated and cooled before freezing. An indicating and recording thermometer is installed.

Pre-packed ice-cream only is sold from all other premises and this is contained in refrigerators; facilities for hand-washing, etc., are provided at all premises.

Food Premises

The following food premises are in use in the district:-

(a) Unregistered

Food Shops

(a) Butchers Shops	2
(b) Other food shops	44
Cafes	4
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses	37

(b) Registered

Slaughter houses	2
Bakehouses	3
Ice-cream manufacturers	1
Ice-cream retailers	47
Dairies (under M & D Regs. 1949)	7

Inspection of Registered Premises

The following visits and inspections of registered and other premises have been carried out during the year:-

Slaughter houses	119
Ice-cream manufacturers...	4
Ice-cream retailers	16
Dairies	8
Butchers Shops	8
Food Shops	9
Cafes... ..	4
Bakehouses	7
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses	18

Generally speaking, all premises are kept clean and are provided with adequate sanitary accommodation and hand washing facilities for the employees.

Education in Food Hygiene

Owing to the scattered nature of the district it is impracticable to attempt any courses of lectures in food hygiene. The majority of the food premises in the district are family businesses where hired assistants are not usually employed. Advice and instruction in food hygiene is given during the normal inspections of the premises where it is thought to be necessary.

Condemned Food

No food was condemned during the year and no special examinations of stocks were requested.

Slaughter Houses

The two slaughter houses in operation in the district are kept in a satisfactory condition and the standard of slaughtering and quality of meat has been consistently high.

All the animals killed at the slaughter houses have been examined post-mortem and all meat found to be unfit for human consumption was surrendered voluntarily, stained and disposed of to approved dealers.

A table showing the number of animals inspected and those found to be diseased in whole or in part is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. The absence of disease can be explained by the fact that the butchers have a local family trade only, and can only buy-in the best quality animals to retain that trade. The majority of the pigs killed are bred by one of the butchers on his own farm.

Meat Grading

One slaughter house is designated as a grading centre for pigs and the Council allow the meat inspector to act as Grading Officer. In all 75 pigs have been graded this year.

Milk Production

The duties remaining with the local authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949 were carried out and all the premises used are satisfactory.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district. 7 dairymen were issued with supplementary licences to retail designated milks.

Food and Drugs Adulteration

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council

7. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Camps and Moveable Dwellings

Regular inspections of all camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were made and informal action only was required to keep the sites up to the standard required.

New sites for 17 caravans were licensed during the year, 3 for permanent accommodation and 14 for holiday use.

(b) Hop-pickers Accommodation

The hop-picking this year was carried out in good weather and was relatively short in duration.

Fewer farmers employed resident pickers than in previous years and it was found that those farmers who did employ them had, in some cases, more pickers than they ordered with a consequent shortage of accommodation; in no case was this shortage of accommodation serious.

The condition of the living quarters generally was good with the usual exception of scavenging arrangements where improvements were made after informal action. In one or two cases fire precautions were thought to be below standard and these were reported to the Fire Prevention Officer of the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade who took the necessary action to improve the conditions.

The usual nursing facilities were provided to all farms in the district by nurses employed by the County Council, District Nurses, and the Salvation Army. The arrangements worked smoothly and the health of the pickers was good, only one case of dysentery being notified.

(c) Petroleum Act

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 69 and the gallonage involved was 59,010.

One new installation was approved.

(d) Rodent Control

Routine inspections of the district were carried out in the usual manner during the year and treatments made at the request of owners or occupiers of premises. Free treatments are given to dwelling houses and the charge for treating business premises is 7/6d. per hour.

The number of treatments carried out during the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>					<u>Treatments</u>
(i)	Private dwellings	...	...	...	504
(ii)	Business premises	...	...	...	39
(iii)	Local authority sewers	...	...	...	6
(iv)	Local authority refuse tips	...	...	...	45
(v)	Agricultural...	...	...	...	16
Total					610

SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	Registered	Inspections	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Factories with power	37	17	1	1
.....
Factories with-out power	2	2	-	-
Totals	39	19	1	1

In addition four inspections were made of the premises used by outworkers in the making of gloves.